

A description of the male of *Araneus ogatai* (Araneae: Araneidae)

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Abstract — Male of *Araneus ogatai* Tanikawa 2001
is described for the first time.

Key words — *Araneus ogatai*, male

When I described *Araneus ogatai* Tanikawa 2001, I could not examine its male (Tanikawa 2001). In the spring of 2003, Mr. Akihiko Yawata collected a male of the species among several females from Chiba Prefecture, Japan. It will be described in this paper. The specimen used for this study is deposited in the collection of the Department of Zoology, National Science Museum, Tokyo. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Tadashi Miyashita, and Dr. Richard Walters, the University of Tokyo, for their critical reading of the manuscript of this paper. My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Akihiko Yawata, Tokyo, for offering the valuable specimen used in this study.

Araneus ogatai Tanikawa 2001
(Fig. 1–2)

Araneus ogatai Tanikawa 2001, p. 76 [Holotype: ♀, Kurami, Kamo-cho, Tomata-gun, Okayama Pref., 25-V-1991, K. Nojima leg., preserved in the National Science Museum Tokyo (NSMT-Ar 4910), examined].

Specimen examined. 1♂, Riso Park, Shimo-sangao, Noda-shi, Chiba Pref., Japan, 22-IV-2003, A. Yawata leg. (NSMT-Ar 5482).

Description. Measurements (in mm). Body 3.56 long. Carapace 1.96 long; 1.62 wide. Length of legs [tarsus + metatarsus + tibia + patella + femur = total]: I, 0.68 + 1.63 + 1.55 + 0.90 + 2.08 = 6.84; II, 0.65 + 1.45 + 1.38 + 0.80 + 1.85 = 6.13; III, 0.45 + 0.75 + 0.65 + 0.56 + 1.23 = 3.64; IV, 0.53 + 1.15 + 1.03 + 0.63 + 1.65 = 4.99. Abdomen 1.96 long; 1.64 wide.

Male. Carapace longer than wide (length/width 1.21). Median ocular area wider than long (length/width 0.88);



Fig. 1. *Araneus ogatai* Tanikawa 2001. Male dorsal view. (NSMT-Ar 5482)

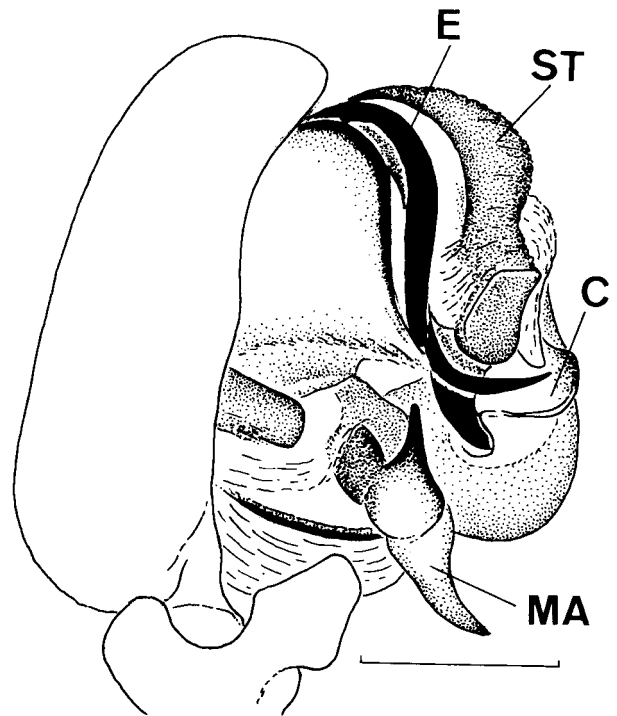


Fig. 2. *Araneus ogatai* Tanikawa 2001. Male palp prolateral view. (NSMT-Ar 5482). Scale: 0.25 mm. Abbreviations: C, conductor; E, embolus; MA, median apophysis; ST, subterminal apophysis.

almost as long in front as behind (anterior width/posterior width 1.04). Promargin of chelicera with 3 teeth, retromargin with 2 teeth. Tibia I prolaterally with several strong spines. Labium wider than long (length/width 0.78). Sternum longer than wide (length/width 1.12). Length of

leg I/length of carapace 3.49. Male palp: terminal apophysis small; subterminal apophysis large and well sclerotized (Fig. 2, ST); embolus spiniform (Fig. 2, E); median apophysis V-shaped, both tips sharpened (Fig. 2, MA). Abdomen longer than wide (length/width 1.20).

Coloration and markings. Male (Fig. 1). Carapace brown, head region lighter. Dorsum of abdomen brown mottled with white.

Remarks. As was mentioned in my previous paper (Tanikawa 2001), *A. ogatai* closely resembles *A. komi* from Iriomotejima Is. These species can be distinguished from each other by the shape of epigynum: 1) the scape of epigynum is apparently longer than wide in *A. ogatai*, but almost as wide as long in *A. komi*; 2) posterior part of epigynum is protruding posteriorly in *A. ogatai*, but not in *A. komi*. On the other hand, they cannot be separated by the shape of male palp.

Although *A. komi* and *A. ogatai* cannot be separated by the shape of male palp, there is a large morphological gap in the epigynum of these species. Consequently I recognized these as two independent species. To my knowledge,

there are two other pairs of species whose epigynum differ greatly but male palps are very similar; 1) *Larinia phthisica* (L. Koch 1871) and *Larinia chloris* (Audouin 1826) (Grasshoff 1970, Tanikawa 1989); 2) *Argyrodes fissifrons* O.P.-Cambridge 1869 and *Argyrodes kumadai* Tanikawa 1999 (Chida & Tanikawa 1999).

Distribution. Japan (Honshu, Kyushu).

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